



NEWS RELEASE

Drew H. Wrigley
United States Attorney
District of North Dakota

655 First Ave. N. Suite 250 P. O. Box 699
Fargo, ND 58102-4932 Bismarck, ND 58502-0699
701-297-7400 701-530-2420

For Further Information Contact: Julie Hough (701-297-7400)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dead-Beat Dad Sentenced to 10 Months' Imprisonment

GRAND FORKS - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that on February 15, 2006, United States District Court Judge Ralph Erickson sentenced **Ronald James Badurek**, 58, to ten months in the Grand Forks County Jail followed by over four years of probation after Badurek pleaded guilty to a felony charge of failure to pay child support. Badurek entered his plea on December 8, 2005. Badurek was also ordered to pay \$80,982.24 in restitution, the amount of his total unpaid support obligation, and a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund. He will be on daytime work release from the jail so that he can pay the restitution and support obligations he owes as a result of his non-payment.

During the sentencing hearing Judge Erickson declared that Badurek was the poster child for deadbeat dads and that this case is within the top five of the worst dead-beat dad cases he has seen in his 15 years as a state and federal judge.

In 1993 the North Dakota District Court in Grand Forks, North Dakota, ordered Badurek to pay \$378 per month support for his minor child, born November 3, 1991. In 2000 the District Court increased Badurek's child support obligation to \$572 per month.

The North Dakota Office of Child Support Enforcement (NDOCSE) payment history indicates that Badurek had never made a payment to the State of North Dakota prior to his arrest in this case. As of February 14, 2006, the amount of total arrearages was \$80,982.24.

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In 2005 Badurek admitted to Special Agents of the Department of Health and Human Services that in the past he had fled to Montana to avoid his child support obligation. He stated that he had been moving around and hiding to avoid child support payments since 1997, and that he was presently preparing to go to Montana until things died down with child support collection efforts. Badurek admitted that he is not physically disabled and that he was capable of obtaining employment; he said he did not work because he knew he would be tracked down by NDOCSE and he could not afford the child support payments.

United States Attorney Drew Wrigley said, "Child support obligations are legally binding. They are not simply a suggestion by the court. The sheer morality of a parent's obligation ought to be enough; sadly, sometimes it takes more. We are committed to working with state authorities to ensure that child support orders in North Dakota are respected and are paid." Wrigley complimented the North Dakota Office of Child Support Enforcement for its efforts in collecting child support.

The case was investigated by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations.

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl prosecuted the case.

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